

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas Presson on 3/24/2009.

Claim 11 is to be amended as follows:

Claim 11 (currently amended):

An image correction method comprising the steps of:
receiving image data of an image from an imaging apparatus subjected to an automatic white balance correction;
categorizing the image data into one of a plurality of categories with respect to a magnitude of brightness and a range of brightness;
converting image data according to one of a plurality of scene-reference color space formats;
storing both the converted image data and the unconverted image data of the image in a memory;
performing the tone correction for the stored image data; and

wherein a plurality of luminance values corresponding to a plurality of cumulative histogram values with equal intervals are extracted from the image data in a YscYCC format,

wherein the image data is categorized into a plurality of categories according to a first extracted luminance value and a luminance range determined by a second extracted luminance value and a third extracted luminance value,

wherein the category information is used for selecting tone correction parameters, and

wherein the plurality of scene-reference color space formats comprise a first scene-reference color space format and a second scene-reference color space format having linear image data and an extended color space of the first scene-reference color space format.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-19 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to teach or suggest an imaging apparatus which converts the image according to one of a plurality of scene reference color space formats and wherein a plurality of luminance values corresponding to a plurality of cumulative histogram values extracted from image data in a YscYCC format, wherein the image data is categorized according to three extracted luminance values, where the category information is used for selecting tone correction parameters.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AMY HSU whose telephone number is (571)270-3012. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lin Ye can be reached on 571-272-7372. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Amy Hsu
Examiner
Art Unit 2622

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